



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Albuquerque District

NEWS RELEASE

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DETONATE

WWII era practice ordnance to be detonated today

Found on former Kirtland Precision Bombing Range west of city

ALBUQUERQUE - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers discovered a WWII era black powder charge while searching for practice bombs on a former 1940's bombing range located five miles west of Albuquerque today.

A U.S. Air Force Explosives Ordnance Disposal team from Kirtland Air Force Base will detonate the practice bomb this morning.

"The former bombing range may contain practice munitions that never detonated upon impact, so the government is trying to locate them for removal by detonation similar to unexploded ordnance removal operations that have taken place in other parts of the country," said Bruce Hill, spokesperson for the Corps.

"The removal actions will improve the land for potential use by the city," he said.

Located near Double Eagle II Airport, the federal government used the undeveloped city property in the early 1940's to prepare flight crews for overseas bombing missions during WWII. Known as the former Kirtland Precision Bombing Range, the Corps has been digging for the practice bombs since Tuesday.

“The black powder charge is so far the only practice bomb found since the physical search began last week,” Hill said. Engineering controls will be used to ensure safety and limit the noise and debris from the blast. The removal action poses no danger to people in the area.

Safety is always the Corps' top priority. Should anyone encounter or suspect they have encountered ordnance, anywhere in the country, it is vitally important that they follow the simple "3Rs" of explosives safety:

Recognize – if you see munitions, treat them as being dangerous

Retreat - do not touch, move or disturb it, but carefully leave the area

Report - call 911 and advise the police of what you saw and its location

On behalf of the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cleans up sites around the country that were formerly used by the U.S. military. In 1942, the U.S. government leased 15,135 acres of land in the Albuquerque area (Bernalillo County) as an off-base site of the former Kirtland Precision Bombing Range site. In 1947 the site was declared surplus property and all leases were terminated.

For more information about the former Kirtland Precision Bombing Range site, please visit our web site at www.spa.usace.army.mil and click on the "former Kirtland Precision Bombing Range" link, or call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Affairs office at 505-379-4636.

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